

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: CGEN, IR(NAVIDI, SAID)
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON IRANIAN CITIZEN SAID NAVIDI

REF: STATE 007377

1. AN IRANIAN BY THE NAME OF SAID NAVIDI IS KNOWN TO USIS. HE HAS HAD A NUMBER OF POSITIONS IN VARIOUS IRANIAN INFORMATION ORGANIZATIONS IN RECENT YEARS, OR AT LEAST HE HAS STATED THAT HE HAS HAD SUCH POSITIONS. NONE HAVE BEEN OF PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE AND USIS OFFICERS AND IRANIAN EMPLOYEES HAVE LITTLE RESPECT FOR HIM.

2. MOST RECENT USIS CONNECTION WAS IN EARLY 1976 WHEN NAVIDI PRESENTED HIMSELF AT POST SEVERAL TIMES AND STATED THAT ETTELA'AT PUBLISHING COMPANY, ONE OF IRAN'S TWO MAJOR PUBLISHING FIRMS, HAD ASSIGNED HIM TO GO TO US TO GATHER MATERIAL FOR SPECIAL BICENTENNIAL SECTIONS FIRM PLANNED TO CARRY IN ITS TWO DAILY NEWSPAPERS. AT THAT TIME NAVIDI ALSO ASKED POST'S ASSISTANCE, THROUGH USIA, IN INTRODUCING HIM TO POTENTIAL AMERICAN ADVERTISERS. POST INFORMED NAVIDI THIS COULD NOT BE DONE BUT DID INTRODUCE NAVIDI TO AGENCY OFFICES IN WASHINGTON FOR ASSISTANCE IN OBTAINING INTERVIEWS AND EDITORIAL MATERIAL. AGENCY PERSONNEL SPENT INORDINATE AMOUNT OF TIME ATTEMPTING TO BE HELPFUL TO NAVIDI AND RESPONSIVE TO HIS REQUESTS. IN END, AS FAR AS POST IS AWARE, NAVIDI

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SENT NOTHING TO ETTELA'AT AND SPECIAL SECTIONS WERE PULLED TOGETHER BY POST AND ETTELA'AT JOURNALISTS IN TEHRAN.

3. ETTELA'AT CONTINUES TO ACKNOWLEDGE THAT NAVIDI IS ITS "ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE IN THE UNITED STATES." PUBLISHING FIRM OFFICIAL STATES THAT NAVIDI DID GO TO MEXICO CITY TO COVER RECENT INAUGURATION. MAHMOUD HATEF, CHIEF OF THE

FOURTH POLITICAL (AMERICAS) DEPT. OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, SAYS NAVIDI DID NOT RPT NOT REPRESENT IRAN AT INAUGURATION. HOWEVER, HATEF RECALLED THAT AN INDIVIDUAL BY THIS NAME APPEARED IN MEXICO CITY ABOUT EIGHT MONTHS AGO, REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS A VISITING JOURNALIST AND IN AN INTERVIEW WITH A MEXICAN NEWSPAPER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING HE IS A RELATIVE OF THE SHAH. THE IRANIAN EMBASSY IN MEXICO CONTACTED NAVIDI ABOUT STORY AND HE SAID HE WAS MISQUOTED AND HAD NEVER TOLD THE MEXICAN REPORTER HE WAS SHAH'S RELATIVE. HATEF SAID IT PROBABLE THAT NAVIDI WILLFULLY PROVIDED FALSE INFORMATION TO MEXICAN JOURNALIST. HATEF'S ASSUMPTION PROBABLY CORRECT AS NAVIDI HAS PENCHANT FOR NAME DROPPING.

4. POST HAS CHECKED WITH A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING UNDERSECRETARY FOR TOURISM OF MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND TOURISM AND CAN FIND NO HINT OF QUOTE THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF TOURISM AND GAMING OF IRAN UNQUOTE. THERE IS INDEED A SUPREME ECONOMIC COUNCIL CHAIRED BY THE PRIME MINISTER BUT THERE IS NO SAID NAVIDI ASSOCIATED WITH THAT ORGANIZATION.

5. IN SUM, IF SAID NAVIDI KNOWN TO USIS IS SAME INDIVIDUAL WHO IS SUBJECT OF REFTTEL, EMBASSY CANNOT PROVIDE FAVORABLE REFERENCE.

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